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This Week in Congress

September 27, 2010

Dear Friend,

Welcome to "This Week in Congress."

- [Tenth Annual Partners in Conservation Tour Looks at Best Practices](#)
- [Supporting Wichita Aviation and Kansas Workers](#)
- ["Urban Wheat Field" Educates Residents and Visitors to D.C.](#)
- [Accepting "Guardian of Small Business Award" from NFIB](#)
- [Joining Governor's Military Council for Meeting in Wichita](#)
- [Receiving the "Tax Fighter Award" in Congress](#)
- [Accepting "Champion of Pharmacy" Award by Kansas Pharmacists Association](#)
- [Attending Kappa Kappa Gamma's Dad's Day at Kansas State University](#)
- [Economic Analysis of USDA GIPSA Livestock Regulations Needed](#)
- [In the Office](#)

Tenth Annual Partners in Conservation Tour Looks at Best Practices

I held my 10th annual conservation tour on Monday, to learn more about conservation efforts in Kansas. This year's tour focused on the livestock industry and featured stops in Douglas, Wabaunsee, Geary and Riley Counties. Conservation practices examined during the tour included the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program (FRPP), the Grasslands Reserve Program (GRP), as well as smoke management.

This year's featured guest was Dave White, Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Washington, D.C. I was also joined by Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins, Kansas State Conservationist Eric Banks and Kansas State Farm Service Agency Executive Director Adrian Polansky.

Conserving our natural resources is critical to preserving Kansas for the next generation. The conservation tour gives me the opportunity to learn how land owners, conservation groups and government agencies are partnering together to ensure the future success of Kansas agriculture, while maintaining and improving the environment. Thank you to all the landowners, including Dr. John Bradley, Dan Imthurn, Joe Carpenter, Barb Downey, George and John Poland, Rod Moyer, Charlie Lee and the folks at the Konza Prairie Biological Station, who allowed me to spend time on their land and learn more about on-the-ground conservation efforts. Also, thank you to all of the guests and our conservation partners for helping put this tour together. [Click here to view photos from the tour.](#)



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Supporting Wichita Aviation and Kansas Workers

Last week, two Wichita aviation companies announced plans to cut over a thousand jobs. During this tough time, I will continue to work with the Wichita community to help ease the challenges many families may face. I recently met with Wichita aviation CEOs to discuss ways Congress can be more supportive of the aviation industry. This week, I joined members of the Kansas delegation in asking House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid to bring the Federal Aviation Administration authorization bill before Congress. This bill would help bring stability to the aviation industry, which has suffered in the current economic climate. Congress has been debating this bill for over two years, so it is past time to move forward on a long-term federal aviation policy. To put people back to work, Congress should create a regulatory and tax environment with a lot less uncertainty, so businesses can succeed and create jobs. What the general aviation industry needs is a strong economy, so businesses can invest in corporate aviation.

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“Urban Wheat Field” Educates Residents and Visitors to D.C.

This week, I appreciated the opportunity to join Kansas wheat producers at the “Urban Wheat Field” near the U.S. Capitol Building. The exhibit featured a quarter-acre of live wheat at various stages of growth, a full-sized combine, multiple demonstration flour mills and a mobile baking laboratory. The purpose of the exhibit was to educate more Americans about the importance of agriculture to our nation’s economy. Thank you to Jerry McReynolds of Woodston, Kansas and

President of National Association of Wheat Growers, and the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers for inviting me to join them at this special event. [Click here](#) to view a photo of the event.



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Accepting “Guardian of Small Business Award” from NFIB

This week, I was named a “Guardian of Small Business” by the National Federal of Independent Businesses (NFIB), the nation’s leading small business association, for my record of supporting small businesses. Small businesses are the backbone of the American economy and have generated 65 percent of the new jobs over the past 17 years. Yet today, many business owners are reluctant to hire new workers or invest in their companies because they don’t know which tax hike, regulation or mandate will come next from Washington. Congress must create a tax and regulatory environment that allows businesses to grow and create jobs. I am honored to receive this award and will continue to support our nation’s small businesses, the engines of job creation in our country. [Click here](#) to view a photo of the award presentation.



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Joining Governor's Military Council for Meeting in Wichita

On Friday, I joined fellow members of the Governor's Military Council at a meeting at McConnell Air Force Base in Wichita. The Governor's Military Council consists of military and community leaders and members of the Kansas congressional delegation. The council meets regularly to help lead efforts to support Kansas service members and veterans, and to protect and grow the military's presence in our state. During the meeting, we discussed ways to increase training opportunities at the Great Plains Joint Training Center at Salina, how to improve schools at Ft. Riley and Ft. Leavenworth and the importance of Kansas military installations to our nation's security and the Kansas economy. Thanks to Executive Director John Armbrust for organizing the meeting.

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Receiving the "Tax Fighter Award" in Congress

On Thursday, I was honored to receive the "Tax Fighter Award" from the National Tax Limitation Committee (NTLC) in Washington, D.C. NTLC President Lewis K. Uhler presented me with the award for my support of lower tax rates, reduced government spending and limited government. During these tough economic times, Congress must not increase the tax burden so businesses can grow and create jobs. If Congress fails to act before the end of the year, taxes will increase for all Americans, many of whom run small businesses and employ American workers. This tax hike will only further damage our economy. I will continue my work to fight unnecessary taxes and work to create a regulatory environment that encourages job creation and business expansion. [Click here](#) to view a photo of the award presentation.



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Accepting “Champion of Pharmacy” Award by Kansas Pharmacists Association

On Friday evening, I attended the Kansas Pharmacists Association's (KPhA) annual meeting in Lawrence. This year, KPhA is celebrating its 130th anniversary. At the event, I was honored to receive KPhA's "Champion of Pharmacy" award. Across America, pharmacists play a vital role in our health care delivery system. In many Kansas communities, the local pharmacist is the most direct health care provider. I co-founded the Congressional Community Pharmacy Coalition in the House of Representatives to advocate for policies that preserve and enhance access to the medication, supplies and counseling that Kansans depend on for health and wellness. I was honored to receive this award from an organization committed to providing quality health care to Kansans and strengthening communities. Thank you to KPhA members, Executive Director Mike Larkin and President Nicki Kehr for the award and hospitality. Also, thanks to Brian Caswell for coordinating my visit.

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Attending Kappa Kappa Gamma's Dad's Day at Kansas State University

This Saturday, I had the pleasure of returning to Manhattan to once again attend Kappa Kappa Gamma's Dad's Day with my daughter, Alex. Throughout the school year, Kappa hosts events for families to be involved with KSU and the sorority. I enjoyed meeting and visiting with other Kappa family members and spending time with my daughter. The Dad's Day events took place in the evening after the KSU football game. KSU defeated Central Florida, 17 to 13, giving the Wildcats a 4-0 start for the first time since 2003. [Click here](#) to view a photo of me and my daughter from the event.

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